development work is expected to be completed by August 1987. As a fall out of this effort, a 128 lines electronic exchange module has been developed. The prototype of this exchange is expected to be available this month.

Filling up of the vacant post of Judge of Sikkim High Court

1744. SHRI LEONARD SOLOMAN SARING: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Sikkim High Court has been short of one Judge for the last over six months;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Sikkim High Court has the strength of only 3 permanent Judges;

(c) whether Government are also aware that because of the vacancy of the 3rd Judge, the litigants are unable to prefer appeals against the decisions of a single Judge bench; and

(d) by what time the appintment of a Judge against the vacant post is likely to be made by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) The Sanctioned strength of the Sikkim High Court is 3 permanent Judges inclusive of the Chief Justice. At present, 2 permanent Judges are in position, leaving the vacancy of the Chief Justice which arose on 4-1-1985.

(c) The Registry of the Sikkim High Court has intimated that litigants are unable to file proper appeals against the decisions of a single-judge bench.

(d) The question of appointment of regular Chief Justice in the Sikkim High Court is engaging the attention of the Govt. in consultation with the concerned authorities. It is not possible to indicate the date by which time the appointment of Chief Justice would be made.

Strike by workers in Bharat Leather Corporation

1745. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that workers of the Bharat Leather Corporation are on strike for the last few months.

(b) if so, what are their demands.

(c) whether the demands of the workers are being considered by Government; and

(d) if not, what measures are proposed by Government to bring the strike to an end?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) to (d) A section of the workers of the BLC was on strike since April 26, 1985. However, as a result of meetings held between representatives of the Union and the Management and senior officers of this Department, the strike was called off on 5-8-85.

Allotment to Type-I quarters from P&T Pool

1746. SHRI SYED AHMED HASHMI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he received several letters from Members of Parliament/ Members of Delhi Metropolitan Council for allotment of Type I accommodation to SC/ST employees from P&T Pool in New Delhi during the last one year;

(b) if so, the number of such letters received;

(c) what specific action has been taken thereon; and

(d) what was the number of SC/ST employees whose names were in-